



DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

News Release

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

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For Immediate Release: August 30, 2011

PUBLIC HEARING SET WEDNESDAY ON AUWAHI WIND ENERGY DRAFT HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN

KAHULUI -- The Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, August 31 to receive comment on the draft Habitat Conservation Plan for a proposed east Maui windfarm.

Auwahi Wind Energy LLC proposes to construct and operate a wind farm with a net generating capacity of 21 megawatts, augmented with a battery energy storage system (BESS) in east Maui, Hawaii. In addition to the wind turbine generators and the BESS, the proposed project would include an electrical collection system, an operations and maintenance facility and related infrastructure, an approximately 9-mile (15-kilometer) 34.5-kilovolt generator-tie line, an interconnection substation, and an approximately 27-mile (44-km) construction access route from the Port of Kahului to the project site.

Construction and operation of the wind farm has the potential to result in incidental take of species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, and the State of Hawaii endangered species statute, Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 195D, including the 'ua'u or Hawaiian petrel (*Pterodroma sandwichensis*), nēnē or Hawaiian goose (*Branta sandvicensis*), ōpe'ape'a or Hawaiian hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus semotus*), and Blackburn's sphinx moth (*Manduca blackburni*).

To address potential take and to comply with Hawaii endangered species law, Auwahi Wind Energy has developed a Habitat Conservation Plan that outlines measures to avoid, minimize, mitigate, and monitor take of the aforementioned threatened and endangered species. In addition, the Habitat Conservation Plan outlines measures to ensure a net recovery benefit to the species that are the focus of the plan.

The public is encouraged to comment on the draft Habitat Conservation Plan. Public comments should be received by September 23, 2011.

Anyone who is unable to attend the public hearing, is asked to send comments to:

Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
1151 Punchbowl Street Room 325
Honolulu, HI, 96813
Attention: HCP Coordinator Sandee Hufana

Or email comments to: Sandee.K.Hufana@hawaii.gov